Supply of imported sugar through PDS

1583. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to supply imported sugar through PDS;

(b) if so, whether the imported sugar is to be distributed at the same rate as that of the indigenous sugar or the two rates would be different; and

(c) if the price of imported sugar could cost more for the customers, whether the poorer sections of the society would be able to bear the burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP-NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Government have decided to supply imported sugar along with indigenous sugar through Public Distribution System at a uniform retail price of Rs. 9.05 per kg.

Retail price of sugar

1584. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sugar industry has assured Government that the retail prices of free sale sugar in the open market will not exceed Rs. 15.50 per kg.;

(b) if so, whether Government had a number of discussions with all the sugar industries in the country;

(c) if so, to what extent the prices of sugar had been checked; and

(d) whether the prices of sugar had come down from Rs. 20/- per kg to Rs. 15/- per kg. in the open market during the month of June, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Two meetings were held on 6-6-1994 and 25-6-1994 with the industry/trade in an effort to bring down sugar prices in the open market. In these meetings the industry had assured that they would endeavour to sell sugar at such prices so that the retail price of free sale sugar in the open market remains between Rs. 14.50 to Rs. 15.50 per kg.

(c) and (d) The retail prices of sugar in the open market have generally shown a declining trend in the last days of May, June and July, 1994. The retail price of sugar (S-30 grade) in the principal markets of the country which was in the range of Rs. 15.00—17.30 per kg. on 19-5-1994 decreased to a range of Rs. 14.00—17.00 per kg. in June, 1994 and further to a range of Rs. 12.80—16.40 per kg. in July, 1994 (upto 27th July, 1994).

Sugar Mills offer to make Gur from Cane

1585. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar mills have offered to make gur from cane;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) has made such an offer;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether such a conversion by large mills would cause unemployment;

(e) if so, the reaction of Government; and

(f) what is the socio-economic impact of large sugar mills producing gur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) The Indian Sugar Mills Association in a note submitted to Government had made a proposal that the sugar mills should be permitted to convert cane to gur/jaggery.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association was requested to submit a detailed pro-